

CLEAN SET OF CLAIMS IN THE CASE

1 1. [Twice Amended] Method for operating an account payable  
2 computing system, comprising the steps of:

3  
4 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable  
5 data base original electronic invoices received from a  
6 vendor to identify duplicate invoices including  
7 identifying as duplicate invoices those invoices for the  
8 same vendor, invoice number, purchase order billed and  
9 items billed for which the net sum of invoiced amounts is  
10 greater than zero;

11 introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices  
12 into said accounts payable data base; and

13 electronically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate  
14 invoices back to said vendor without introducing said  
15 duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 2. [Twice Amended] A method for operating a computing  
2 system, comprising the steps of:

3 grabbing inbound EDI invoice files from vendors before  
4 they are input to an accounts payable database, said  
5 grabbing including sorting inbound debit invoices and

6 credit invoices in credit/debit sequence and posting said  
7 credit invoices to said accounts payable database;

8 auditing in sequential order of receipt said debit  
9 invoices in said inbound EDI invoice for a duplicate  
10 invoice item, a duplicate invoice item being an invoice  
11 item having a net sum > zero determined with respect to  
12 previously received invoices for the same vendor invoice  
13 designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
14 number;

15 upon determining said inbound EDI debit invoice is a  
16 duplicate invoice, creating an electronic duplicate  
17 invoice transaction back to said vendor; and

18 posting to said accounts payable database only those debit  
19 invoices determined not to be duplicates.

1 3. The method of claim 2, said auditing step comprising the  
2 further steps of:

3 first sorting said inbound EDI invoice against an accounts  
4 payable production table for same vendor and same vendor  
5 invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same  
7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items  
9 billed on purchase order;

10 fourth sorting hits from said third sorting to identify  
11 said inbound EDI invoice as a duplicate invoice if it  
12 contains an item having a net sum greater than zero.

1 4. [Amended] Method for operating a computing system  
2 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a  
3 vendor, comprising the steps of:

4 grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an  
5 accounts payable database;

6 automatically identifying previously received invoices  
7 from said vendor having the same vendor invoice  
8 identifier;

9 automatically identifying said previously received  
10 invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier and  
11 items corresponding to items on said input invoice;

12 automatically calculating the net sum of items on said  
13 input invoice having corresponding items on said  
14 previously received invoices;

15 for an input invoice having an item with a net sum greater

16           than zero, communicating an automated duplicate invoice  
17           rejection message back to said vendor without posting said  
18           input invoice to said accounts payable database; and

19           for an input invoice having no item with a net sum greater  
20           than zero, posting said input invoice to said accounts  
21           payable database.

1       5.    [Amended] A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2           tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a  
3           machine to perform method steps for processing electronic input  
4           invoices from a vendor, said method steps comprising:

5           automatically preprocessing said input invoices to  
6           identify duplicate invoices;

7           preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable  
8           data base said input invoices received from a vendor to  
9           identify as duplicate invoices those said invoices having  
10          an exact match on, vendor invoice number, purchase order  
11          number and item number, and having a sum greater than  
12          zero;

13          introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices  
14          into an accounts payable data base for payment; and

15          automatically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate

16 invoices back to said vendor without introducing said  
17 duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base  
18 for payment.

1 6. [Amended] A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a  
3 machine to perform method steps for operating a computing system  
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a  
5 vendor, said method steps comprising:

6 grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an  
7 accounts payable database;

8 identifying previously received invoices from said vendor  
9 having the same vendor invoice identifier;

10 identifying said previously received invoices having the  
11 same vendor invoice identifier any items corresponding to  
12 items on said input invoice;

13 calculating the net sum of items on said input invoice  
14 having corresponding items on said previously received  
15 invoices;

16 for an input invoice having an item with a net sum greater  
17 than zero, communicating a duplicate invoice rejection  
18 message back to said vendor based upon said grabbing,

19 identifying and calculating steps without posting said  
20 input invoice to said accounts payable database; and  
  
21 for an input invoice having no item with a net sum greater  
22 than zero, posting said input invoice to said accounts  
23 payable database.

1 7. [Amended] An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable program code  
3 means embodied therein for operating a computing system  
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a  
5 vendor, the computer readable program means in said article of  
6 manufacture comprising:

7 computer readable program code means for causing a  
8 computer to effect grabbing said input invoice before it  
9 is input to an accounts payable database;

10 computer readable program code means for causing a  
11 computer to effect identifying previously received  
12 invoices from said vendor having the same vendor invoice  
13 identifier;

14 computer readable program code means for causing a  
15 computer to effect identifying said previously received  
16 invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier any

17 items corresponding to items on said input invoice;

18 computer readable program code means for causing a  
19 computer to effect calculating the net sum of items on  
20 said input invoice having corresponding items on said  
21 previously received invoices;

22 computer readable program code means for causing a  
23 computer to effect for an input invoice having an item  
24 with a net sum greater than zero, communicating a  
25 duplicate invoice rejection message back to said vendor;  
26 and

27 computer readable program code means for causing a  
28 computer to effect for an input invoice having no item  
29 with a net sum greater than zero, posting said input  
30 invoice to said accounts payable database.

1 8. [Amended] An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable program  
3 code means embodied therein for processing electronic  
4 input invoices from a vendor, the computer readable  
5 program means in said article of manufacture comprising:

6 computer readable program code means for causing a  
7 computer to effect preprocessing said input invoices to

8 identify as duplicate invoices those invoices have an  
9 exact match on four data points including purchase order  
10 number, vendor invoice number, item number, and sum  
11 greater than zero;

12 computer readable program code means for causing a  
13 computer to effect introducing invoices not identified as  
14 duplicate invoices into an accounts payable data base for  
15 payment; and

16 computer readable program code means for causing a  
17 computer to effect rejecting invoices identified as  
18 duplicate invoices back to said vendor without introducing  
19 said duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data  
20 base for payment.

1 9. A computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic  
2 input invoice from a vendor, comprising:

3 means for grabbing said input invoice before it is input  
4 to an accounts payable database;

5 means for identifying previously received invoices from  
6 said vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

7 means for identifying said previously received invoices  
8 having the same vendor invoice identifier any items



9 corresponding to items on said input invoice;

10 means for calculating the net sum of items on said input  
11 invoice having corresponding items on said previously  
12 received invoices;

13 means, responsive to an input invoice having an item with  
14 a net sum greater than zero, for communicating a duplicate  
15 invoice rejection message back to said vendor; and

16 means, responsive to an input invoice having no item with  
17 a net sum greater than zero, for posting said input  
18 invoice to said accounts payable database.

1 10. A computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic  
2 input invoice from vendors, comprising:

3 an accounts payable database;

4 sort logic for sorting said input invoices into  
5 credit/debit sequence in the order received;

6 posting logic for posting credit invoices to said accounts  
7 payable database;

8 net-sum logic for evaluating debit invoices in sequential  
9 order with respect to previously received debit and credit

10 invoices to identify a duplicate debit invoice item, a  
11 duplicate debit invoice item being an invoice item having  
12 a net sum greater than zero determined with respect to  
13 previously received invoices for the same vendor invoice  
14 designation, same purchase order number, and same item  
15 number;

16 said posting logic being further operable for posting to  
17 said accounts payable database only those debit invoices  
18 for which said invoice items have a net sum less than or  
19 equal to zero.

1 11. The computing system of claim 10, further comprising:

2 rejection logic responsive to an input debit invoice from  
3 a vendor having an item with a net sum greater than zero  
4 for communicating a duplicate invoice rejection message  
5 back to said vendor.